

MINUTES
DWI/ADET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 14, 2004
10:00 A.M.
Room 414, Legislative Office Building

The Driving While Impaired (DWI)/Alcohol Drug Education Training (ADET) Advisory Committee to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (LOC) met on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 414 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Senator Charlie Dannelly, Co-Chair; Senator Austin Allran, Representative John Sauls, Ann Christian, Dr. Robert Foss, Dale Kirkley, Phillip Mooring and Sandy Pearce. Offering staff support were: Dr. Alice Lin, LOC Project Manager; Spencer Clark, Michael Eisen, Jennifer Resnick and Jason Reynolds from the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS) and Shawn Parker, Kory Goldsmith, Legislative staff and Rennie Hobby, LOC staff. Attached is the Visitor Registration Sheet that is made a part of the minutes. (See Attachment No. 1)

Senator Charlie Dannelly called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. He told members that Representative Alexander had a conflict and would not be able to attend the meeting. Senator Dannelly then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19th meeting. The motion was made and the minutes were approved. He then asked members if they were available to meet on January 4th at 10:00 AM instead of the scheduled meeting on January 5th. Members agreed to the change.

Dr. Lin, LOC Project Manager, gave a brief overview of the meeting. She said the group would hear the results of the survey findings and would make preliminary recommendations. The survey was conducted over the telephone rather than by mail in order to reach more people. She announced the response rate was 93% which was excellent. She said the Division would also review the suggested curriculum changes for ADET schools.

Michael Eisen, Director of the Office of DWI Services for the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, began by giving a brief outline of his presentation. (See Attachment No. 2) Mr. Eisen gave an overview of the ADETS emphasizing that they are more of an intervention service than a prevention service and that ADETS are for first time offenders only. He referred to an ADETS certification application to give members a summary of qualifications. (See Attachment No. 3)

Continuing, Mr. Eisen gave an overview of the ADETS revised instructor curriculum. (See Attachment No. 4) He explained that the primary change is to the approach, the process by which the student and the instructor work to achieve their goals. The purpose of the system is to bring about learning, with integrated parts working together. He pointed out the website for the program that the provider's page gives easy access to rules, report forms, and licensure packets, to name a few. The facilitator's page gives the teaching curriculum and resource library. The goal is to facilitate the discussion so that students come to the realization of the changes they need to make through self-inventory, self-reflections and at the same time covering all the facts. The course ends with a self-evaluation by the students.

Representative Sauls asked what would happen if a person did not successfully complete the course. Mr. Eisen told him that the person's license would not be reinstated until he had completed the course regardless of time.

Senator Allran commented that the self-assessment was a good idea and that the inconvenience and the financial burden must have an impact. Jennifer Resnick agreed and said that part of the curriculum is to do a financial assessment asking students to calculate all the charges related to the DWI arrest so they can see the impact on time and money spent.

Dr. Lin asked if the system approach was sensitive to the differences in age since there was an increase in the younger age group. Mr. Eisen said the approach was not to segregate people. He said there are a lot of benefits that the older participants and learn from the young and the younger ones can learn from the older ones. The instructor has the tools to be flexible during intervention.

Senator Dannelly asked if the Department monitored the success of the instructors. Mr. Eisen answered that records were kept of everything that goes on in the facilities. Complaints were investigated and regular monitoring takes place.

Senator Allran asked if there was a way to measure the outcomes of the ADETS. Spencer Clark said that research in the past showed that clients completing the course were less likely to be rearrested. He said a new study to track the graduates of ADET schools to evaluate the effectiveness of the program should start in about six months once a contractor is hired and funds are in place.

Continuing, Mr. Eisen reviewed the survey findings from 93% of the 54 ADETS providers in North Carolina. He said a total of 57 ADETS instructors, almost half, were certified with the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Certification Board. Of the remaining 30 instructors, half have college degrees. Under the Substance Abuse Counselor I category, 4 have an associate degree and 9 have a high school degree but through course work or life experience meet the criteria to be an instructor. Most surveyed thought that the class size should be limited to 15 and that the length of the course should be extended from 10 to 15 hours or more with an increase in the current fee of \$75.

Spencer Clark reviewed the cost-finding methodology worksheet that included the personnel costs and the administrative costs. He said the range varied greatly depending on location and size making the average cost from \$75 to \$84. Mr. Clark then showed how the class size and student fees impact the provider's estimated cost.

Mr. Eisen then reviewed a chart showing a State-by-State comparison. North Carolina was on the low end of the course hourly requirements and the cost. South Carolina had hourly requirements of 16 hours at a cost of \$500 and Virginia required 20 hours with a cost of \$300-\$400.

Mr. Eisen then reviewed preliminary recommendations. The first recommendation was to retain the current administrative requirements. After deliberation, a motion was made to grandfather existing instructors with future ADET instructors required to have CSAC certification or to be certified by other appropriate boards. The motion was approved. The second recommendation was to increase the minimum ADETS program hours from 10 hours to 16 hours. A motion was made and approved. The third recommendation was to increase the fee paid to the treatment facility or school from \$75 to \$125. A motion was made and the recommendation was approved. The fourth and final recommendation was to reduce the maximum class size from 35 persons to 20 persons. A motion was made to accept recommendation number 4. The motion was approved.

Dr. Lin told members they would receive a final draft report with the recommendations to review before the next meeting on January 4th.

Senator Dannelly adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

Senator Charlie Dannelly, Co-Chair

Rennie Hobby, Committee Assistant